



e-News From MAIENstreet

A Neighborhood e-Newsletter From Councilman Brian Maienschein

March/April 2003

Volume 3, Issue 3

Proudly Representing the District Five Communities of:

Carmel Mountain Ranch
Mira Mesa
Rancho Bernardo
Sabre Springs
San Pasqual
Scripps Ranch
Sorrento Mesa
Sorrento Valley

Maienschein Introduces “Social Host Ordinance”

Vandalism, violence, teen pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases, and drunk driving all too often share a common source: underage drinking.

On March 5, 2003, I proposed an ordinance to the City Council’s Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee aimed at holding adults responsible for underage drinking parties. Usually, when police break up a party where minors are drinking, the person who hosts the party is not held responsible. This proposed ordinance will now hold that person accountable.



This ordinance will make it a criminal offense for adults to knowingly serve alcohol to minors. When teenagers drink, they often get the alcohol through sources such as older friends, brothers, sisters, strangers, or even parents, putting these young people in dangerous situations. Just last year 81% of teens surveyed in San Diego County said that alcohol was easy to obtain.

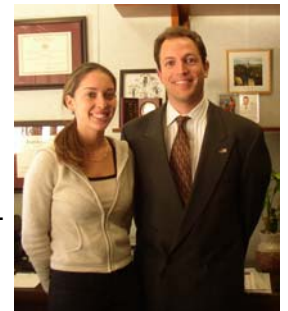
(Continued on page 2)

New Opportunities for Youth in City Government

Last May I put forth a proposal to form a Youth Commission where our young people can actively participate in City government on a variety of issues. The Youth Commission has grown in strength and character, and now is directly involved in the Council’s review of an underage drinking ordinance.

The article below was written by Elizabeth Dindial, the Scripps Ranch High senior who now is the chair of Youth Commission. Please read her descriptions of the Commission and its work. I think this group of volunteers will have a positive impact on our City.

Most people associate the word “teenager” with the notorious stereotype teens are often associated with. Generally people are aware of the crimes committed by teenagers, but how often do you hear of the positive accomplishments of the youth in your community?



(Continued on page 3)

Maienschein Introduces Social Host Ordinance	1-2
Youth Commission offers opportunity for teens	1-3
Maienschein Saves Community Funding from Budget Cuts	2
Community Clean-up	3
Contact Councilman Maienschein	4



Maienschein Saves Community Funding from Budget Cuts

I am pleased to announce that the City Council approved my proposal to protect over \$750,000 in community funds.

During City Council budget discussions last month, the City Manager brought forth a proposal that would have raided \$750,000 from interest accounts on development agreements in the community of Miramar Ranch North in order to fill budget shortfalls in the City's Fiscal Year 2003 budget. These accounts are the only source of community improvement funds for the I-15 community.

I believe that using community money as a quick fix to a long term budget problem is unfair and dishonest. The neighborhoods in our community depend on these accounts to make important improvements and I will continue to oppose any proposals which steal community funds to fill the deficit in the City's General fund. The state's budget problems are going to result in cuts at the City level, but I will make sure that neighborhood funds are not taken for this purpose.

(Continued from page 1 - Social Host Ordinance)

I am particularly disturbed that there are a number of people who use alcohol as a means to take advantage of young people, including predatory adult males who often use alcohol to take advantage of underage girls. The police need a stronger weapon to combat these predators, and I am pleased to provide that tool.

Just this past January, a Rancho Bernardo teenager named Lisa Stoefen died because of underage drinking. Lisa was introduced to alcohol by an adult residing at a friend's house when she was a teenager. Even if parents do everything right at home, it is often too easy for their children to get alcohol at a friend's house.

Underage drinking has widespread impacts, including assaults, vandalism, noise, and littering, all of which affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Other consequences of underage drinking are not so easy to see, but they are even more devastating. Unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases are among the long-term problems associated with teen drinking.

Last year, San Diego Police received more than 7,500 party calls. Those 7,500 party calls cost San Diego taxpayers nearly \$300,000, which could be better allocated. Under the proposed ordinance, an adult who hosts an underage drinking party will be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in the county jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. In those cases, the City may also seek reimbursement for the costs of enforcing the law.

After a successful vote at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, this ordinance will move toward approval by the full City Council. I believe this will ultimately provide law enforcement with a powerful tool to combat the dangers and problems associated with alcohol consumption among minors.



(Continued from page 1 - Youth Commission)

More youth are involved in volunteering their time for a constructive purpose every day than those who behave destructively. These young adults participate in activities that range from serving as student government leaders, working to earn money for college, volunteering at beach clean-ups, and coordinating programs like Students Against Drunk Driving, LEO Club, Roteract Club, KEY Club, as well as many other youth groups that serve their peers and the community.

These bright individuals are not typically on the front page of the paper and do not always receive the recognition they deserve. However, they are the future leaders of the community who are gaining experience at an early age by utilizing these valuable years to participate in events that benefit others.

Here is another thought: teenagers are citizens of society, too. They do care about their local government and how different issues affect them. There are many different commissions in San Diego that represent everything from public safety to trees, but until recently there was not one to represent a large portion of San Diego - the youth. Councilmember Maienschein, who is almost young enough to be a Commissioner himself, immediately recognized this problem and took action.

His formation of the San Diego Youth Commission is the answer for youth in the community to redeem their reputation as positive contributors to society. The Youth Commission serves as a voice for the young people of San Diego. The Commissioners contribute their time and ideas to improving different aspects of the City. We have already participated in various events such as beach clean-ups, leadership conferences, and tree planting ceremonies.

Currently, the Commission is participating in local governmental issues such as reviewing an underage drinking ordinance, improving night life for youth and preventing accidents caused by drinking and driving. The Commissioners are all students involved in their schools and neighborhoods, and by dedicating their time to the Commission they may also gain ideas they can take back to their communities. This Commission holds a promising future for being an essential contributor in the already wonderful City of San Diego.

Maienschein Rolls Up His Sleeves for Community Clean-up

I am pleased to inform you of some community clean-up measures that are being implemented in our neighborhoods. Recently, I partnered with the Alpha Project, a local non-profit organization, to provide brush clearing and dead tree removal for a 2.5 acre parcel of land located adjacent to Bernardo Center Drive and Bernardo Center Court.

The overgrown brush and dead debris that exists on the lot has been giving residents cause for concern in light of the upcoming fire season. On March 4, I hosted a community clean-up event to kick-off the brush removal efforts that will be implemented throughout the months of March and April.

I am also pleased to announce that I recently joined residents of Mira Mesa and members of the San Diego Police Department to paint out graffiti in the Mesa Verde Neighborhood Park. I am dedicated to continue these clean-up efforts on a regular basis throughout the communities of District 5.



*A Neighborhood e-Newsletter From
Councilman Brian Maienschein*

e-News From MAIENstreet
City Administration Building
202 C Street, MS 10-A
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-236-6655
Fax: 619-238-0915
Email: Brian.Maienschein@sandiego.gov
Web: www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5



Your District 5 Staff

Lance Witmond
Chief of Staff

Clint Carney
Chief of Policy

Brittany Ekard
Council Representative

Rob Knudsen
Council Representative

Khoa Nguyen
Council Representative

Monica Ortiz
Council Representative

John Rivera
*Public Safety Committee
Consultant*

Angela Yager
Council Representative

Christine Young
Office Manager/Scheduler

Please visit my website to email me or my staff, download past editions of e-News From **MAIENstreet**, access information about the City of San Diego or to utilize any of the web based government services offered on-line.

To begin receiving e-News From **MAIENstreet** every month via email, simply send a request to the email address below or sign up directly by visiting my website at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5/maienstnews.shtml>